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LUCA, RUMANIAN VICE-PREMIER, DISMISSED

A special report, date lined Bucharest, 23 March 1952, states that it has been officially announced that Vasile Luca, Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance of Rumania, has been dismissed. Two of Luca's aides were also relieved of their duties prior to his own dismissal. The new Minister of Finance is Dimitru Petrescu, former director of the Bureau of Raw Material Recovery.

In 1944, Luca came from Moscow with the Soviet troops and was a top official for a year, together with Ana Pauker and Bodnaras. Until recently, he was still considered the third-ranking member of the Rumanian Communist Party, immediately after Gheorghiu-Dej and Ana Pauker. It is curious to point out that mention has been made at various times of a possible purge of Gheorghiu-Dej, Ana Pauker, and Bodnaras, but the thought had never been voiced that Vasille Luca might fall from grace.

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